

JULY · 1948

# The INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER



*Official Magazine*

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS · CHAUFFEURS · WAREHOUSEMEN & HELPERS OF AMERICA

# Anti-Trust Laws Apply to Owner-Operators

INDIVIDUAL owners, under certain circumstances, are business men. So says the Department of Justice. Individual owners who are members of a union affiliated with this International cannot go into a meeting and decide their own rates of hauling.

This is interpreted by the attorney general's office under the anti-trust laws almost in the same way as if a group of storekeepers were to meet and decide by vote not to sell tomatoes for less than a certain price.

In other words, individual truck owners, like a group of business men, cannot get together and decide on certain hauling prices because such action would compel one of their members to charge a specific price in accordance with the rule laid down, even if he wanted to do the hauling for less.

As individuals they can go out to their customers and to the public and state that they will not haul a ton of coal or a load of furniture except for just so much either per hour or per mile or per ton.

They can do that as individuals, but they cannot go into a meeting and pass a motion or make a rule binding all of the individual owners in their district who are in a union.

Our lawyers have found this out from the government. Even though we strenuously objected to such a ruling, we must be governed by it.

So you individual owners, if you get into trouble on this score, you have yourselves to blame. You have been warned.

The rates for over-the-road hauling are usually regulated by the Interstate Commerce Commission, even for individual owners. There are local agencies that find work for individual owners who also take a rake-off.

What we want to remind our individual owners is this: that you are considered a conspirator or a trust in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act if you go into a meeting and say that no member of the organization shall haul for less than the prices agreed to. So we advise our individual owners to be careful.

But, let us remind you again that an individual owner with one or two trucks, if he is not under the Interstate Commerce Commission, can go to John Jones and say—"I will charge so much for this job because I cannot do it for less."



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CHAUFFEURS . . . WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS

Vol. XLV

JULY, 1948

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# Medical Trust Fights Murray

## Montana Senator is Target of Vicious Campaign

**M**ORE than \$160,000 was raised during the first three months of 1948 to defeat any candidate for Congress supporting national health insurance legislation, according to Senator James E. Murray of Montana.

Senator Murray, as one of the framers of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill, is the target of the National Physicians' Committee, an organ of Frank Gannett's notoriously anti-labor National Committee to Uphold Constitutional Government.

Last month this magazine commented acidly on the attempt of the National Physicians' Committee to bribe newspaper cartoonists, an attempt that backfired when the cartoonists attacked the committee instead of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill.

Senator Murray charges that the fund raising program to defeat liberal candidates is being sponsored by the National Physicians' Committee and that the big drug manufacturers are contributing heavily to it.

In a letter to President Tobin, the senator said:

"Your back cover editorial on the National Physicians' Committee which appeared in the June issue of THE INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER came to my attention, and I found it excellent.

"I thought you might like to know that this so-called Physicians' Committee has raised over \$160,000 in the first three months of this year to be used in campaigning against anyone supporting national health insurance legisla-

tion. Its list of contributors of \$500 or more does not include a single physician.

"It does, however, include most of the major drug houses in the country.

"It seems strange that whereas labor is forbidden to effectively contribute to political campaigns; these companies, by turning over funds to an intermediary like the National Physicians' Committee, can deluge particular states with leaflets.

"The National Physicians' Committee materials are already appearing in Montana by the tens of thousands and contain some of the most vicious cartoons I have ever seen.

"They are to be distributed, it would seem, by drug stores, drug jobbers, physicians and dentists—a neat and most disturbing trick if they are permitted to get away with it.

"I intend to see what we can do to stop it.

"You may or may not be aware of the fact that I am the only one of the six sponsors of the National Health Insurance Bill who is up for re-election this year.

"Consequently this lobbying outfit, under the guidance of the American Medical Association, is concentrating all its efforts in the State of Montana in the hope that by defeating me it will make health insurance look too hot for other members of the Congress to support in the future. I am hopeful of winning despite this. Editorials such as yours help."

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Labor's struggle for survival is still in its infancy. If we could but look behind the scenes and see the plans that are being laid to undermine the cause of labor we would wake up and prepare ourselves.—Florida Labor Herald.



# National Dairy Fights On!

To Our Membership in General and Their Friends

By DANIEL J. TOBIN

THE fight is still on between the General Ice Cream Corporation in Hartford, Conn., and Local Union No. 536. This General Ice Cream Corporation distributes and has branches in other cities in the East, especially Albany, Boston and elsewhere. The directing influence in this company seems to be Vernon F. Hovey, who is a director also of National Dairy Products Corporation.

Harrell H. Neel, one of the officials of National Dairy, came to our office and asked if we would meet in conference with him and his associates in New York or some place in that vicinity. We agreed to this conference. We are anxious to hold conferences with our employers everywhere when we are in disagreement with them.

The conference amounted to nothing and Mr. Neel did not seem to have a great deal of influence towards bringing the matter to a settlement as, we repeat, Mr. Hovey controls the conferences representing the employers.

The strike has been going on now for several months. The union men have been out of work and many non-union men have been brought from out of town to take the places of the strikers.

Another conference was held June 21 in Schenectady, N. Y., in Mr. Hovey's office. The International sent in its International representative, Nicholas P. Morrissey, our New England organizer; Dave Kaplan of New York, statistician; Frank Gillespie from Chicago and Gene Larson of Local No. 471, Milk Drivers of Minneapolis.

They met the representatives of General Ice Cream and discussed the question for hours. They could reach no settlement because the corporation insisted on only replacing about one-fourth of the men out on strike and also insisted on holding the men that were brought in there to take the jobs of the strikers.

The corporation also has refused, we are informed, to leave the matter to a fair board of arbitration or to a governmental tribunal of arbitration.

The union is ready and willing to leave it to either the United States Department of Labor or the federal or state boards of arbitration or to any fair board of arbitration, whether it is local, state or national.

Mr. Hovey absolutely refuses to consider such a proposition of honest, fair arbitration and apparently he is directing the battle against the union.

The National Dairy Corporation states that General Ice Cream Corporation is an auxiliary or subsidiary of National Dairy, but National Dairy continues to repeat that they cannot order their subsidiary or auxiliary to do anything except what it wants to do.

We know and you know that this is perfectly ridiculous and that no such condition could prevail. A subsidiary or auxiliary means that the National Dairy finances this institution.

You can take it from your own common sense when you loan money to any business you make your own conditions as to how that money is to be expended and you can also put this down in your book: when you quit



loaning money to an institution that needs money, that institution won't last very long.

Every time in the past years, whenever National Dairy takes over anything, and we have seen them grow up from almost nothing, they make the bargain and they can direct the policy of the company.

Recently National Dairy has decided to issue \$30,000,000 worth of debentures. According to some of the financial papers it has been stated that those debentures will be put on the market by many financial houses in New York, amongst them Goldman, Sachs & Company and Lehman Brothers.

Those debentures are to be sold to the public or to the banks in which the public deposits its money, or to any other financial institution that believes they are a sound investment.

Personally the writer of this article does not consider this a sufficiently sound investment for him to invest his savings!

National Dairy is floating this amount named above. The last information we had is that the Securities and Exchange Commission, which must grant permission and approve such procedure, has approved the floating of this enormous amount of debentures.

Debentures are about the same thing as bonds or first mortgages and are redeemable at a certain time with a certain interest rate. The average working man does not know much about this kind of financial transaction but when you put your money in banks and other financial institutions, that money can be used by the directors and management of those banks for the purpose of purchasing those debentures. Same by some insurance companies.

We just wonder if our people or if

the public fully understands that it is possible and probable that some of that money, raised by selling the debentures of the National Dairy Corporation, will be used to help some of its auxiliaries or affiliates which it controls, fight the legitimate claims of organized labor.

Now we have agreements with the National Dairy Corporation throughout the country and in many instances the management is fair. In other places the management is very, very difficult and hard to do business with.

We have contracts expiring with National Dairy in the very near future and as time goes on, month after month, we have contracts with this great, big, monstrous milk and dairy products institution and we may have trouble with the National Dairy Corporation, much as we would like to avoid trouble with that institution.

The message we are trying to convey to our membership right here is, first, watch yourselves, watch out against the determination on the part of the management to cripple or set back or embarrass your union in your negotiations.

They may force you out on strike because of their unreasonable attitude. This does not mean that you should go to extremes or be unreasonable. You must use your heads in dealing with this corporation and its subsidiaries and branches and no matter how they try to evade the issue we hold that the National Dairy Corporation, the largest of its kind in this country, is responsible for what is going on in Hartford, Conn., in the various disagreements obtaining now between the General Ice Cream Corporation and the membership of the Teamsters' Union. The Teamsters' Union seldom forgets its friends or its enemies.



Our position is this—that if National Dairy has General Ice Cream as one of its subsidiaries or auxiliaries then they can direct the policy of that company, particularly when the company is losing money as it is in Hartford.

We also ask our people and their friends and the public throughout New England, where the General Ice Cream Corporation functions, to try and patronize ice cream companies and milk companies that are fair to the Teamsters' Union and that are not trying to destroy a legitimate, fair dealing, American labor organization.

We do not like to be in disagreement with any of our employers. During our history we have endeavored to settle grievances and during the wars, both wars, we have prevented and stopped strikes because our country was in danger.

Out of our million members there are only a very few now on strike. Our intelligent local leaders, under the guidance of the International officers, are never reluctant to sit down and reach agreements with our employers when it is humanly possible to do so, but in this case we have been forced to make known the situation in Hartford with General Ice Cream, which also sells milk and Sealtest products, so that our people will understand that we have

done everything to avoid trouble and failed.

When the employer puts his back up against the wall and says "I won't listen to honest arbitration" then that employer is bringing about, perhaps at a later date, a bitterness against private industry and honest, free enterprise.

In other words, such an employer is helping to hatch the eggs of Communism. The average working man begins to have created within his mind a bitterness and a hatred against industry and employers because of the acts of some extreme individuals such as the case referred to here.

We do say this—that while we regret this trouble with the General Ice Cream Corporation, a subsidiary of National Dairy, we will "carry on" as long as we believe the position of this local union and the International Union is justified.

In other words, so long as the company continues the attitude it seems to have taken in our recent conference, and so long as the officials of the subsidiary refuse to submit the question at issue to honest arbitration, we have no choice but to fight to the end and support the membership of our Hartford local union in every way we possibly can.

## Radicals, Reactionaries Have Same Program

The reactionaries want us to rush into political strikes so that they can have the excuse to abandon law and use force against us. The totalitarians want us to do it, so that the reactionaries will use force against us, and thereby embitter us still more, making us more and more subject to Fifth Column influence.

The reactionaries to the right want us

to launch a premature and weak third party so the reactionaries will be sure to win the next national election. The totalitarians want us to do this, because they'd rather have a reactionary isolationist government, leaving Russia free to do as she pleases with the rest of the world.—*East Bay Labor Journal, Oakland, Calif.*

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The first state 10-hour-day law was passed by New Hampshire in 1847.



# Minneapolis Boosts Deliveries

Local No. 471 Carries on Continuous Campaign

**L**OCAL No. 471 of Minneapolis is continuing its campaign to sell home delivered milk and dairy products, according to Secretary-Treasurer Gene Larson.

The photograph below shows that the union is missing no opportunity to advertise its wares and to make the people of Minneapolis conscious of the service that is always available from the union drivers.

The picture was taken during recent ceremonies in connection with the general union label campaign. The musicians are the Melody Makers of Franklin Cooperative Creamery.

The sign in the background is on the wall of one of the largest union meeting halls in the city, constant-

ly carrying its message to all crafts.

In addition to crusading for home deliveries among the general public, Local No. 471 is also concentrating on making every union understand the importance of union milk service.

Every union man who carries his milk home is depriving another union man of work. The same is true of other articles of merchandise from the stores.

The slogan "Have It Delivered" applies to all kinds of deliveries. Union drivers are available for every kind of delivery service. Every Teamster local, whether it has members in retail delivery or not, should remember that deliveries are the foundation of their organization.

Mr. Larson reports that Local No. 471 is making excellent progress.





# NAM Messenger Boys Go Home

Worst Congress Shows Contempt for Public Welfare

By LESTER M. HUNT

**T**HE worst Congress in modern memory has adjourned. It did so in continued contempt for the welfare of the American people.

It laughed at the housing crisis, thumbed its nose at the public school system, weakened social security, encouraged inflation and generally showed itself to be the tool of the big corporations and their highly paid lobbyists.

Instead of a Congress representing the American people, it resembled a convention of the National Association of Manufacturers.

There have been other bad Congresses. But they were accidentally bad. This one was deliberately bad.

It set out to repeal all the humanitarian laws and reverse the progressive principles of the Roosevelt era. It succeeded probably better than it expected.

It took money from the workers and gave it to the corporations.

It permitted prices to rise while it prohibited labor from increasing its wages to balance the cost of living.

But it took care of itself. It increased its own pay 50 per cent while refusing to increase the wages of people earning only \$16 per week.

It also took care of its own housing problems. While it opposed rent control for the nation as a whole, it favored it in Washington, D. C., where the congressmen and senators live.

It reduced taxes for the rich and increased them for the poor.

One of its last acts was to pass the Bulwinkle bill over the veto of Presi-

dent Truman. This measure exempts the railroads from the anti-trust laws. It permits them to fix rates in defiance of the intent of the law.

And it was introduced after 47 railroads had been indicted for violation of the trust laws.

In effect, Congress passed one law to prevent the prosecution of corporations for violating another law. When any corporation wants a law, Congress leaps into action.

Railroads can fix rates, according to Congress. That doesn't violate the anti-trust laws any more. But if 47 Teamsters who own their own trucks get together to fix rates, they are violating the law.

Congress didn't change the law to help little truck owners. But it did to help the railroad combine.

Congress also changed the laws to help the real estate interests, the private utility interests and every other big interest that throws money into campaigns to elect Congresses like this one.

It changed the labor laws, too. But not to help labor. It changed them to help the same corporations. By prohibiting the closed shop and weakening the union shop, Congress attempted to destroy the ability of labor unions to keep the wages of workers abreast of the cost of food, clothing and housing.

Congress wants to be certain that labor is not strong enough to take away from the corporations any of the extra profits Congress gave them.

In the Taft-Hartley Act, Congress adopted the policy of counting absent



votes as negative votes in a union shop election.

But the politicians rejected this policy for themselves. In the Indiana Republican convention they amended the rules so that instead of needing a majority of the delegates elected, a candidate needed only a majority of those "present and voting."

This convention was controlled by some of the same men who control Congress. But they refused to be bound by the laws they set for others. They made special laws for themselves like they did on rent control.

Congress shuddered at the public health bill which would guarantee medical attention for people who were sick and poor. This was branded as "socialized medicine."

Congress also shuddered at the proposal to help the public schools by appropriating \$300,000,000. This money would provide schooling for 2,000,000 American children who have none at all. They are condemned to live in illiteracy.

Yet Congress appropriated \$265,000,000 for tobacco and liquor for des-

titute Europeans. Congress said that federal aid for the public schools was Communistic.

What about federal aid for thirsty Europeans?

Does Congress think it can kill Communism by getting Europe drunk and America ignorant?

Nothing is more fundamentally American than our system of free public education. It is our protection against Communism which takes root in uninformed minds.

Yet a craven Congress says that federal aid for the public schools is Communistic. It says the same of public health and public housing and minimum wages and price control and social security and everything else that would benefit the average citizen and his family.

This Congress reminds us of the description an American orator once applied to an enemy. He compared him to "a dead mackerel in the moonlight that shines and stinks."

The only difference is that this Congress doesn't shine. Not even in the moonlight. It just stinks and stinks.

## Read Tobin's Letter to All Local Unions

By DANIEL J. TOBIN

I have sent a personal letter to each local union throughout the country advising them how to proceed with the policy of their union at their meetings during the next year.

Remember, I am just advising them, which is my sworn duty, for the purpose of trying to lead unions on to a policy that may protect them in the future. We now need men of strategy and brains more than ever before to lead and guide our unions. There is no place in the unions for loud mouths, who usually are bunko artists.

Try to attend the meetings of your union or ask the secretary of your union to let you read my letter of advice to all unions.



# Steel Union Erred on Taft Act

Officers Should Sign Anti-Communist Affidavits

By DANIEL J. TOBIN

SOME people will say it is none of our business what other unions do or what policy they pursue. This is an old fashioned, antiquated idea. The blundering of one union has an effect on all other unions. The success of one union has a stimulating effect on other unions.

We cannot understand why the Steel Workers in their very fine convention recently held in Boston would decide to refuse to obey that section of the Taft-Hartley Act which requests international officials to state they are not Communists.

We know the officers of the Steel Workers from Phil Murray down and we are satisfied that none of them are Communists, or anything like Communists.

However, the convention referred this question to the executive board of the Steel Workers for the purpose of deciding this very important matter.

The executive board of the Steel Workers took no action. By taking no action they deprived themselves of the bargaining rights or the services of the National Labor Relations Board, and the steel industry can very easily say—"we cannot bargain with you because you have not complied with the Federal laws."

To us that section of the Taft-Hartley Act means nothing. In fact, it is a privilege to be able to say to the government that none of our general executive board members are Communists.

Of all the rotten sections in that Taft-Hartley law, this is the least obnoxious.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters provided in its constitution even 10 years ago, long before the Taft-Hartley law, that no Communist could be a member of our union.

Even though he made an oath that he was not a Communist, if we believed he was by his actions and from evidence, we have the right to expel him from membership because an oath means nothing to a Communist.

The average Communist is an atheist in a strict sense of the word and an atheist does not believe in God and consequently an oath means nothing.

By the refusal of the board of the Steel Workers to comply with that section saying they are not Communists, they deprived themselves of the rights and privileges to negotiate with their employers when their agreement expires next December and by such action they may jeopardize the best interest of their good, faithful, real trade unionist membership.

To my way of thinking this is not the clever, shrewd way to do things. However, I am not responsible for the actions of the Steel Workers organization except in an indirect way.

If the Steel Workers go out on strike because their employers refuse to negotiate with them due to the fact that they have not complied with the anti-Communist section of the law, then they can injure or seriously inconvenience a great many other trade unions, and so it is with all of us in our respective organizations.

We are all closely allied and the vic-



tory or failure of one union has an effect on us all. I sometimes think and worry about the blunders made by employers and by some union officials that involve our Teamsters' Unions in trouble. We hate to injure them so we hesitate to express ourselves openly lest it might injure them, even though we know they have made mistakes.

I do say that the mistakes made by stubborn employers who believe they are living in the past, are four times as many as the mistakes made by labor unions and their representatives.

It may be difficult for President Murray to sign for the general executive board of the CIO because there are undoubtedly Communist members of that body. This is also true of many international unions in the CIO who fail to get recognition from the National Labor Relations Board because of their refusal to sign the anti-Communist affidavit.

We know of one large organization in the CIO whose principal officer is a Communist. This is well known to labor men and also to the government.

That gentleman cannot possibly sign this section of the Taft-Hartley law denying that he is a Communist. President Murray cannot force him to sign.

There is only one way that situation can be handled and that is by expulsion

of that union by the CIO. This they cannot afford to do because that union might be able to get along independently or it might affiliate with some other group outside of the American Federation of Labor or the CIO.

I know one thing, that if any international union was suspended from the CIO because it had Communist officers, I, as a member of the AFL executive council, would oppose its being granted a charter by the AFL while it had Communists holding the principal offices.

We have so many sections of the Taft-Hartley law that are so desperately dangerous, it seems to me that we could concentrate on those sections and sign up that we are not Communists, that we are opposed to Communism, that there are none of our officers who are Communists.

That one section of the law, to my mind, does not injure labor, while every other section of the law is not only dangerous but is designed to destroy the trade union movement.

Senator Ball of Minnesota is gang-ing up with his political pals who hate labor to strengthen the Taft-Hartley law by amendments. These amendments are mainly directed towards the destruction of labor, no matter what Mr. Ball says to the contrary.

## Labor Must Mobilize for 1948 Elections

Labor's fight to protect the interests of the workers in industry from the effects of the Taft-Hartley bill will be carried on on two broad fronts.

1. We must carry on in the shops and in the local unions a constant, day by day fight to close and unite our ranks as a union for the protection and enforcement of our collective bargaining contracts.

2. We must set our sights immediate-

ly on organizing and carrying forward constantly the broadest possible battle on the political front, not only for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley act, but to break the grip of reaction on the policies of government and to move forward along the path whose beginnings were outlined in the Economic Bill of Rights initiated by President Roosevelt.—*UE News, United Electrical Workers.*



# Labor's League Making Progress

Reactionaries Concerned at Mobilization of Voters

By BERNARD TASSLER

THEY laughed when I sat down to play the piano . . ." That's the way a rather ubiquitous advertisement used to start out. There would always be a picture of a young woman or a young man at the piano, with incredulous friends draped around the instrument. If you read the ad, you quickly learned that their laughter turned to cheers as they discovered that Mary or Joe really knew how to play like Paderewski, thanks to a very simple course of instruction.

When the American Federation of Labor convention in San Francisco last October called for the establishment of Labor's League for Political Education and the launching of an intensive political education drive among the working people of the nation, there was quite a bit of laughter, too.

Working people didn't laugh. The wives of workers, unable to make ends meet no matter how much ingenious and persistent effort they put into trying to accomplish the impossible, didn't laugh. But the Taft-Hartleyites did snicker and guffaw, and since their display of derision was put on publicly, it may be presumed that their performance had a purpose.

And it did indeed. What was that purpose? Obviously, to persuade the American people, if they possibly could, that Labor's League for Political Education need not be taken seriously—that it would be a flop—that it might just as well be forgotten right then and there. The hope was that by getting these ideas circulating, labor

itself would feel that the task was hopeless and let LLPE die.

The Taft-Hartleyites aren't cheering now, because unlike the people in the picture with Mary or Joe and the piano, the Taft-Hartleyites never were, are not now, and never intend to be the friends of anyone but the most reactionary powers in the country.

Before we get any further, it should be made absolutely clear that the term "Taft-Hartleyite," as used in this article, refers to anti-labor senators and representatives of *both* parties—and unfortunately there are too many of that destructive ilk who belong to both parties.

This country of ours is the greatest on earth. Labor is going to make improvements in the composition of Congress—at least, that is what labor is now striving with all its energies to achieve in November—so that America's greatness may be preserved and enhanced.

The 80th Congress, taken all in all, has worked very hard trying to wreck the country by wrecking sound relations between labor and management.

With the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act and the tycoon-serving tax law, plus the non-passage of such vitally needed measures as the housing bill, health insurance, broadening and improvement of social security, lifting of the minimum wage and many others, the 80th Congress has injured the United States.

If the same type of so-called "business Congress" comes to Washington again next January, the democratic



way of life which is the pride and the strength of America will probably find itself in grave peril.

When all is said and done, the well-being of our country as a whole has always been a more serious matter to labor than to other elements of our population. Labor has made occasional errors, as is inevitable, but rare indeed these past 170 years have been errors of labor which were errors of the heart.

Just why it should be that labor is consistently on the side of the angels is a fit subject for a tome, but here we must content ourselves with the simple, brief statement of what is an unassailable fact.

This is how it has been through our history—and surely it has been so in the past twenty-odd years. When Congress was a body interested in and responsive to the needs and recommendations of those who toil, good legislation was enacted and the country moved forward.

Anyone at all familiar with the history subsequent to March 4, 1944, will recognize that there is no element of exaggeration in the foregoing assertion.

On the contrary, when Congress changed and became a body eager to serve the small but financially potent gang who are the powers of the National Association of Manufacturers, we quickly got prices of necessities and other commodities up in the topmost layer of the stratosphere and a law that makes it very tough for the worker to win a wholly justified wage increase and other benefits.

Should there be any doubt in any reader's mind, the law referred to is the Taft-Hartley Act, which was actually drafted, in the most brazen manner, by the lawyers for companies not renowned for friendliness either to the worker or the consumer. These lawyers

were supplied with a comfortable office by anti-labor congressmen, and these lawyers, agents of the vicious NAM element of industry, drafted what is now the Taft-Hartley Act.

All this is well known by now to most wage-earners. The problem now is: Where do we go from here? What do we do now?

George Meany gave the answer in an address a couple of weeks ago. Speaking in New York City, the secretary-treasurer of Labor's League for Political Education and officer of the American Federation of Labor said this:

"We are going to fight back. We know that if we don't fight, and fight intelligently, what has happened in the last year or so is nothing compared to what the NAM and its spokesmen in Congress have in store for us."

Mr. Meany pointed to the danger of a home-grown Fascism.

"If the present trend continues," he warned, "with legislative restrictions both national and state, with courts willing and anxious to enjoin union efforts to achieve higher standards by strike action, with government giving every cooperation to profit-mad employers, we will soon reach the point where trade unions can no longer render effective service to workers.

"When we reach that point we will be well on the road to a system of government just as unsound, just as brutal and just as destructive of human liberties as the twin frauds known as Communism and Fascism."

Back at the beginning we said the Taft-Hartleyites aren't cheering and they aren't jeering. The Taft-Hartleyites have been given quite a jolt lately, and if the working people of all states stay on their toes as the workers of three states—and not highly industrial-



ized states either—have done in the recent past, Mr. Taft, Mr. Hartley and all the people who think as they do, in either party and both in and out of office, will be very Sad Sacks indeed come November.

Labor's League for Political Education played active and successful roles in recent primaries involving labor enemies in Iowa, North Carolina and Florida.

In Iowa, in the Republican primary, anti-labor Governor Blue was kayoed.

In North Carolina, in the Democratic primary, anti-labor Senator Umstead was decisively defeated.

And in Florida, where the noisome Tom Watson, the rabidly anti-union state attorney-general, sought the gubernatorial nomination, the aroused wage-earners paraded to the polls and cooked Mr. Watson—but good. Then he quickly filed for a high judgeship, and once again Tom Watson was licked.

These achievements in Iowa, North Carolina and Florida are very heartening. For the percentages of trade unionists in those three states are exceeded in many other states which are more industrial.

Not only these primary triumphs but the magnificent response of the rank-and-file membership of trade unions to LLPE's bid for contributions of a dollar apiece have given the great political education drive of 1948 tremendous impetus.

No one can ever say with certainty how any project will turn out at a future time, but the signs are numerous that Labor's League for Political Education is filling a genuine need of the many millions of average citizens, organized and unorganized; that the league is moving forward at a steadily accelerating pace, and that the League already has belted out some egregious enemies of labor.

Labor's League for Political Education is off to a very fine start indeed. It is carrying the "Register and Vote" message up and down the land. It is already conveying and will later disseminate most widely the facts about candidates' records which must be in the voter's possession if ballots are to be cast intelligently and democracy is to flourish.

The present writer is not officially associated with LLPE but has watched its development closely, not only in Washington but in a number of representative communities.

Speaking personally, as an ordinary citizen deeply concerned over the need for full participation by all eligible voters in every election, I hope that Labor's League for Political Education will receive the support of every wage-earner as well as of other citizens who appreciate that America must again go forward, with a government that serves the many and not the profit-crazed few.

## All Industries Violate Child Labor Laws

Every major industry is consistently violating the child labor laws, federal inspectors report. The worst offender is the food industry. Last April there were 630,000 children of 14 and 15 employed and 1,340,000 children of 16 and 17, according to the Census Bureau.

This shows an enormous increase over prewar child employment. One of the reasons for the huge number of employed children is high prices, which force children to contribute to the support of their families, the Department of Labor said.



# Akron Drivers Win Recognition

## Nine Members of Local No. 24 Have Fine Records

**N**INE members of Local No. 24 of Akron have won recognition for ten years or more of safe driving, Secretary-Treasurer W. F. Buchwalter announces.

Heading the list is Robert T. Smith, employed by the Liberty Highway Company, who was named Ohio driver-of-the-month on the basis of 17 years without a chargeable accident.

During that time he drove 1,350,000 miles. The award was made by Col. George Mingle of the state highway patrol.

The Liberty Highway Company thinks so highly of Mr. Smith that it refuses to hire a new driver until he has passed a road test under the direction of Mr. Smith.

Eight other members of Local No. 24 with long safety records were singled for special recognition at a banquet given by Motor Cargo, Inc., of Akron for 96 drivers with one year or more without a chargeable accident.

Dana H. Bond leads that list with 14 years of expert operation of his company's equipment. He was presented with a trophy and an engraved watch by Owen W. Orr, president of the company.

Others receiving watches were Ream Barclay, 13 years of safe driving; Walter H. Stanley, 13 years; George Bell, 12 years; Lawrence Stine, 12 years; John McClelland, 11 years; Floyd Davis, 11 years, and Clyde Kurtz, 10 years.

The remaining members of the 96 received engraved cigarette lighters and safety emblems.

At the banquet Mr. Orr announced a safety bonus plan by his company to

give annual awards in government bonds to drivers who go a year without an accident or a chargeable accident.

Drivers with no accidents at all during a year will receive a bond of \$100 while those with no accidents for which they were responsible will receive \$75.

To be eligible, a driver must have worked a minimum of 10 months during the year.

The duty of deciding whether or not an accident is chargeable to the driver is in the hands of the company safety department. If the driver is not satisfied with the decision, he may appeal to the safety control board composed of a representative of the safety department, Business Agent Kenneth Burke of Local No. 24 and a representative of the company's drivers.

The plan went into effect on June 1.

The safety program is in charge of G. L. Smith, a former truck driver and member of Local No. 24. The company employs about 300 members of the Akron local.

"The safety plan is a splendid idea both from the standpoint of the men and the company," Mr. Buchwalter said. "It gives the men an incentive to be careful and it saves the company from the expense of wrecks and the attending disruption of schedules.

"On top of that, it helps make the highways safer. It has had excellent results already and with the yearly bonus, it should be still more productive.

"We have had splendid relations with Motor Cargo in Akron for many years. We also have splendid drivers and I am happy to see them encouraged and rewarded."



# Per Capita Tax Must Be Paid

It Cannot Be Withheld to Pay Other Expenses

By DANIEL J. TOBIN

SOMEONE wrote us from a local union the other day wanting to know if they could hold back their per capita tax for three or four months in order to meet some kind of expense incurred as a result of a stoppage of work.

The local union representative who wrote the letter is fairly intelligent and was a delegate to the convention and helped to draft the constitution.

Of course, our answer was immediately: "No, you can't hold back your per capita tax for anything; read the constitution."

We want to add to that statement that before any bills of any kind are paid, even salaries of officers, the per capita tax should be paid each month. It is almost as important in dealing with the International Union as the payment of your federal income tax.

This law was not made by the general president. It was made by the unanimous action of the convention and the laws are given to the general president and his associates to carry out to the letter.

Now then let us explain the per capita tax a little further. It is the lowest per capita tax of any International Union that we know of in this country. It has not changed since 1920, a period of 28 years.

It now stays in effect until the next convention and it cannot be changed unless a special convention is called because of some serious emergency for the purpose of considering the emergency and the necessity for increasing the per capita tax.

At this writing this proceeding is

not likely to occur. However, with the conditions throughout the world as they are, none of us can tell from month to month what may happen to our country because of world affairs.

We have decided to issue a larger and a somewhat more expensive monthly journal to our membership, which, to say the least, should be worth 10 cents per copy to any member if purchased at a bookstand.

It does not cost the International that amount but when you consider the private mailing of that journal to the homes of each member it runs much higher per copy with its mailing and other expenses than it did some years ago. Yet the revenue from the per capita tax has not been increased.

At the time that the tax was changed at the Cleveland convention in 1920, the journal was 16 pages and was costing about 1½ cents per copy. But many things have happened in 28 years and the cost of operation has quadrupled, as has the cost of everything else. If you can only think back, remember that the whole world has been changed and governments that were powerful then have been destroyed.

In addition to the cost of the journal we have a staff of organizers who go everywhere that danger confronts our union. We pay the highest salaries of any international union in America to our organizers. We train them and gradually increase their salaries as they deserve it.

We pay into the American Federation of Labor two cents per month per member besides any assessment that



is levied, which runs into an average of two or three hundred thousand dollars a year.

We have to maintain a legal staff nationally and locally, all coming out of 30 cents per capita tax. We have expensive headquarters and a large number of bookkeepers and stenographers and we have statisticians and offices in the city of Washington.

All in all, we want to explain to our membership that the 30 cents per capita per month does not pay the regular standard overhead expenses of the organization at the present time.

We have large investments from which we receive considerable each year and then we have some income from initiation fees. Our strike benefits have been kept down because most of our grievances have been peacefully settled, although during the past year we have perhaps paid out over one-quarter of a million dollars in benefits. But we do not know what is coming. We fear trouble for labor in the coming years, and we should prepare for it.

The prestige of the International Union and the moral effect of its resources behind a local union is much more than can be valued in dollars and cents.

Any local union, therefore (and we don't believe we have any such union), that thinks it is losing money in paying the tax is utterly mistaken.

I repeat we have no such local union but if some foolish boy down on the floor believes that his union is not getting value for money paid to the International, he is pitifully ignorant.

Our books are audited twice a year

by our International elected trustees and four times a year by certified public accountants. Our moneys are accounted for as they should be. You can rest assured that this condition will continue to prevail as long as the present heads of this organization are in office and we know that their successors will carry on with the same policy.

If a local union was independent it would get nowhere today.

We are now going through a fight against adverse laws and indecent, unfair employers such as we never experienced or dreamed of in years past. The coming days are going to be more difficult and discouraging, but let me repeat this: no matter how long we have to battle to bring back the light of day and the sunshine of freedom, eventually the labor movement will succeed and will win, because you cannot stifle the truth which is based on justice.

The labor movement of America is founded on justice and if we stick together, work together in one solid unit, determined to fight for what is right, those who come after us will enjoy the blessings of freedom and justice.

Fame is but a fickle dame. Let no officer of a union forget that any honor or publicity they now enjoy has come to them through the union.

When they are out, and they can be removed, they will soon be forgotten. So labor officials should keep their feet on the ground and their heads from swelling. I always remind myself that I am not important. It's the union that is important.

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Yes, labor hates war. Labor knows more about war than any other segment of our society, because the sons and daughters of working people always do the shooting and the dying. Yet, American labor is willing to fight, as always, to defend our American way of life. The future would be black indeed if we had nothing better to look forward to than domination and control from Moscow.—The Elevator Constructor.



# How An Election Was Won!



This shows the methods employed by Local No. 804 of New York City in winning a spirited contest with the CIO for 1,000 employees of the Macy department store warehouse.

The upper picture shows Business Agent Louis Sunshine shining as an orator on the decorated union sound truck.

Below are other Teamster officials participating in the successful campaign. From the left, Leonard Geiger and Joseph Tortorella, business agents of Local No. 804; International Organizer David Kaplan and Edward Conway, secretary-treasurer of the local.

Although 344 voted for the CIO, the Teamsters won a union shop election a short time later by an almost unanimous vote.



The victory of Local No. 804 was described in detail by International Organizer David Kaplan in a recent issue of *The International Teamster*. It was won only after three months of strenuous preparatory work by the New York Teamster officials. During the campaign the CIO worked just as hard to hold the employees of the Macy warehouse. A personal letter from CIO President Philip Murray sent air mail to every employee was a highlight of the CIO campaign and showed the importance they attached to the election.



# Prices Too High—Vets Can't Buy

## Demand for Home Loans Hits Lowest Level

**P**REVAILING high prices for homes and a general tightening in the supply of long-term mortgage money at four per cent have been the chief reasons for the steady decline in the volume of G. I. home loans to veterans, Thomas J. Sweeney, assistant director of the Veterans' Administration loan guarantee service, told members of the National Savings & Loan League at their annual convention in Atlantic City.

"The volume . . . has declined steadily since last September," he said, pointing out that in April, 1948, home loan applications numbered under 29,000, "the lowest level . . . for any month of operation under the amendments to the original act (G. I. Bill)."

"We feel that the average veteran family can afford a home priced . . . at \$5,000 or \$6,000," he said. However, the prices of new homes bought with G. I. loans now are averaging over \$9,000.

To help reduce costs and prices to meet the "broad market for housing," Mr. Sweeney suggested that savings and loan officials channel their mortgage funds to "those builders who are doing the best job in building low and medium priced housing of good quality."

Such restrictions, he maintained, would "exert a strong pressure on all builders to improve their efficiency, squeeze the water out of inflated costs, and concentrate their building programs in the low and medium priced homes which veteran families need and can afford."

Discussing the shortage of four per cent mortgage money, Mr. Sweeney

contended that "many veterans who can afford to buy homes in the current market are finding themselves barred because of their inability to find favorable financing terms."

As an example, he cited the case of a young veteran with a \$6,000 a year income who "found several homes priced at about \$13,000 which are just what he wants. . . . Everything is fine, except that he can't get a G. I. loan, which means he can't buy the house. . . . He cannot buy with a conventional loan which would require a much larger down payment than he has been able to save since his discharge."

"It seems to me," Mr. Sweeney said, "that your association would do well to try to make more loans to veterans in this predicament."

To the extent that the decline in G. I. home loans is attributable to the inability of veterans to obtain favorable financing, the Veterans' Administration concern is "very real," Mr. Sweeney said. He added, however, that the proportion of decline caused by veterans' inability and unwillingness to pay high prices is a "healthy development."

"The Veterans' Administration has never attempted to build loan volume for volume's sake alone," he explained. "On the contrary we have consistently told the veteran to go slow and buy only after careful consideration, reminding him that his loan privilege has a number of years to run."

He estimated that "as many as 4,000,000 veterans may use their privilege to home loans during the more than nine years remaining before their privilege expires."



# Strikes Double Under Taft Act

Statistics Refute Ball's Statement in Behalf of Law

By OLIVER HOYEM

**R**EMEMBER the statement made in March by the congressional "watch-dog committee" that the Taft-Hartley Act had reduced strikes?

Many workers resented the idea that keeping people at work against their will is more desirable than maintaining the right to strike. There are no strikes in Russia!

Now we find that Senator Ball's committee juggled some unrelated statistics in order to try to make the act look good. Ball claimed the act had reduced strikes because there were fewer strikes in the last half of 1947 than in the first half. He didn't mention that this had happened every year since 1927, that this annual trend had nothing to do with the Taft-Hartley Act. Ball's statistics!

Now that the strike figures are available for the first quarter of 1948, we learn about 7,730,000 man-days of idleness because of work stoppages which occurred in that quarter.

If we compare it with the 3,670,000 man-days of idleness in the first quarter of 1947 (a fair comparison), we get a complete reversal of the story Ball issued for public consumption. Strikes have increased. The coal dispute may bring about more man-days of idleness.

Do not assume, however, that the fact of more strikes will persuade the Taft-Hartley boys that this could be the fault of the law. No! Their answer, as indicated by Ball, is more of the same sort of law—strike restrictions, abolition of all types of union security, compulsory arbitration, "ap-

plying the anti-trust law principle of breaking up the concentration of power on both sides of the bargaining table," new labor courts, and banning of industry-wide bargaining.

Congress will make no changes before the November elections. Unfinished business will continue to pile up in the National Labor Relations Board and delay union organization. The Supreme Court's long summer vacation will delay the issuance of vital decisions. Suits, injunctions, and civil penalties against unions await a more favorable "political climate."

Employers who want a fight will get a fight. Unions which may be assessed heavy fines will move to get those fines paid back with interest in the form of increased wages. In the long run, human beings will win out—even if they must resort to their votes.

A much smarter way is that of employers who continue to get along with the unions despite the Taft-Hartley law. Cooperation works better than coercion.

Unions now have government sanction for evading the law.

This amazing suggestion has been implied in the report of the presidential fact-finding board set up to untangle the snarl in which that part of the shipping industry which has contracts with CIO unions finds itself as a result of the Taft-Hartley Act.

The union hiring hall is the issue. Employers say it violates the Taft-Hartley Act. Unions insist that competent judicial authority must first de-



clare it in violation. Each side refuses to budge. A union strike threat led to the fact-finding board and the injunction forcing both sides to maintain the status quo for 80 days beyond June 15.

You have a right to smile at a court action which keeps intact for 80 days longer the union hiring hall which the law was intended to eliminate. But you may also laugh aloud at the board's suggestion that the 80 days be used for finding a way around the law which forced the dispute.

The board does not tell how this can be done. That would not be permitted under the Taft-Hartley Act. The board may only report the facts. It may make no recommendations. But it hints at a way out when it says:

**"Neither side has attempted to use *imagination or ingenuity* to resolve the controversy."**

The board could easily have had in mind the "imagination and ingenuity" used by Harry Lundeberg, secretary-treasurer of the Sailor's Union of the Pacific, in getting around the law.

First, he persuaded the shipping companies on the West Coast that they wanted the union hiring hall maintained, partly as an insurance against Communists who are kept off ships by union action.

Second, he persuaded Senator Taft to give his approval of a contract providing for preferential hiring of former employees of the shipping companies. Since all former employees were members of the Sailors' Union, the effect was a closed-shop hiring hall as in the past.

Labor-management relations between the CIO unions and the shipping companies are more complicated. Some of the unions have suffered from Communist leadership. Eighty days is a short time to resolve the controversy if all legal routines are followed.

Ordinarily it would take longer than 80 days for the NLRB to rule on the unfair labor practice charges which have been filed against two of the CIO unions. Some employers insist that there must be a decision because NLRB General Counsel Denham, in a Great Lakes case, has already declared union hiring halls illegal.

Blame the Taft-Hartley law for this dispute. But blame it also for the new loophole approach to labor-management relations. If there were no such law, unions would not now be asked by a presidential fact-finding board to use "imagination or ingenuity" in getting around the law so as to reach an amicable and practicable agreement.

## Cannery Local Wins Sacramento Vote—714 to 30

By a vote of 714 to 30, Local No. 857 of Sacramento won the largest union shop election held by the National Labor Relations Board in northern California, Business Agent George Cole informed the International.

The election involved the 900 employees of the Campbell soup plant in Sacramento. The company refused to consent to the election and likewise refused to supply the NLRB with any

information needed to hold the election.

The board, thereupon, ordered the election and, with the cooperation of the union, arranged to hold the election in an empty building directly across the street from the plant.

Prior to the election the company wrote its employees a letter stating its hostility to the union shop and virtually threatening to close the plant if the union won, Mr. Cole reported.



# Teamsters Beat Oklahoma Court

## Local No. 886 Wins Bankruptcy Injunction Case

THE United States Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver has issued its decision in the case of International Brotherhood of Teamsters vs. Quick Charge, Inc., reversing a contempt judgment against Local No. 886 of Oklahoma City, which was based upon picketing and boycotting, allegedly in violation of a general restraining order in bankruptcy.

This decision is particularly significant since if the Teamsters' Union had not succeeded in reversing the judgment, a new technique for complete evasion of the Norris-LaGuardia Act would have been successfully developed. It would have thrown open the federal courts again to the issuance of injunctions in labor disputes.

The Taft-Hartley Act has repealed the Norris-LaGuardia Act at least to the extent of permitting the National Labor Relations Board to get injunctions in labor disputes, but the Norris-LaGuardia Act still prohibits injunctions by private employers.

The Quick Charge case represented a new approach by private employers which if successful would have completely emasculated the Norris-LaGuardia Act.

The facts out of which the Quick Charge case arose were rather simple.

A majority of the employees of Quick Charge, Inc., voluntarily joined Local No. 886 and signed application and authorization cards.

When demand was made upon the employer to recognize Local 886 and to enter into a contract with it, the employer refused to do so until the local union had been certified by the

National Labor Relations Board. An agreement for a consent election was entered into.

However, before the election, the employer, through his agents, tried to counteract the union campaign by trying to organize a so-called independent union and, through intimidatory and coercive activities, to discourage its employees from voting for the union at the election.

The union immediately learned of these activities and forewarned the employer that it would not be bound by the results of the election because of these unfair labor practices. As a result of the activities of the employer, the union lost the election.

Shortly after the election the employer suspended operations for a short period of time, and when operations were resumed, failed and refused to rehire known members of the union, replacing such members with employees who had had no previous experience in the plant.

The union then picketed the plant and called upon all those in contractual relations with it to honor the provisions of the contracts which prohibited contracting employers from requiring their employees to go through the union's picket line.

Since Quick Charge depended a great deal upon over-the-road freight movements in the operation of its business, the concerted activities of the union considerably embarrassed the company in meeting its commitments.

The company first tried to remove the picket line by having some of its employees bring an injunction proceed-



ing in the state courts. These proceedings, however, were thrown out.

It was then that the company thought of the plan, which, if successful, would have completely wiped out the Norris-LaGuardia Act.

The company filed a petition in the federal bankruptcy court for reorganization under Section 77-B.

It alleged that although it was a solvent, going concern and had been making a substantial profit during the eight months preceding the filing of the petition, the union picketing and boycotting activities had made it impossible for it to meet its debts as they matured.

The bankruptcy court was asked to take jurisdiction of the company's business but to permit the company to remain in full control and operation.

The bankruptcy court was also asked to enter a restraining order which did not name the union specifically but which referred to "creditors and all other persons" and restrained and enjoined the "creditors and all other persons" from interfering with the company's use and operation of its properties during bankruptcy proceedings.

The bankruptcy court quickly accommodated the employer, and the restraining order was issued.

And although the sole purpose of getting into the federal bankruptcy court was to restrain the union from its picketing and boycotting activities, the union was never given any notice of the petition for reorganization nor of the general restraining order entered by the court.

Some three months later, much to the union's surprise, and without any prior notice or warning, the union was ordered to show cause before the federal district judge sitting in bank-

ruptcy why it should not be punished for contempt of court for having violated the general restraining order.

The law firm of Padway, Goldberg and Previant, attorneys for the International Union, was immediately retained to defend the case. All of the proper legal questions were raised and argued before the federal district judge, and all were rejected.

After a hard-fought trial the judge found the union in contempt and fined it a total of \$13,000, which presumably represented the damages done to the company by the picketing and boycotting activities.

It was from this judgment that the appeal was taken, the International Union coming to the assistance of the local union by arranging for the posting of the cash bond which was necessary.

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals recognized the validity of the union argument that the Norris-LaGuardia Act prohibited the issuance of injunctions in labor disputes regardless of whether such injunction was issued by a federal district court sitting in equity or a federal district court sitting in bankruptcy.

The circuit court agreed with the union that the case did grow out of a labor dispute even though the union lost the NLRB election, and that the picketing and boycotting activities of the union, including the request to union employers to honor their contract, were fully protected by the Norris-LaGuardia Act.

The case now goes back to the federal district court and the local union will have an opportunity to prove the damages caused to it by the commencement of the proceedings against it and will have the opportunity to tax the



substantial costs and expenses that it was put to by this anti-labor corporation.

Thus another attempt to hamper and restrict legitimate labor union activities has been stopped by the International

Brotherhood. The Norris-LaGuardia Act still is one of labor's few remaining bulwarks against the vicious use of injunction and contempt proceedings to halt workers in their legitimate organizational activities.

## Congress Investigates Funeral

Inquiry Absolves Little Teamster Local in New Jersey

By DANIEL J. TOBIN

SOME of the sneaky, penny-ante work our congressmen are doing is unknown to the average citizen of the United States. If the average citizen knew how congressmen waste their time on trivial matters and cause enormous expense to the government, it is possible we would lose faith in our lawmakers to a greater extent that we have lost faith in them at the present time.

Recently, a slight misunderstanding arose between Local No. 907 of Union City, New Jersey, a small local union of only 110 members, over the burial of a U. S. marine.

Some busybodies immediately informed some congressman in Washington that the Teamsters' Union refused to allow former associates of a deceased veteran to be pallbearers at his funeral.

It seems that at the last moment some of his comrades desired to be pallbearers and the rumors went around and around until finally they reached the ears of the very efficient and officious congressmen.

Immediately a committee was appointed to investigate this so-called desperate crime by this little union and the committee of congressmen went down into the post office in Jersey City to hold a hearing and had their pictures in the paper.

One of the officers of the union testified that the local union had made arrangements with the undertaker, at his request, to supply the pallbearers at this funeral but at the last moment before the burial took place a committee or a guard of honor, as they were called, showed up and desired to act as pallbearers.

The evidence at the hearing further showed that the representative of the union offered no objections whatsoever.

In fact it developed that the representatives of this union not only had no objection to comrades acting as pallbearers, but they agreed to furnish pallbearers free at the funeral of any ex-serviceman within their jurisdiction.

Well, finally this wonderful committee of brainy men in our Congress, after spending the day in Jersey City with the government paying their expenses, did nothing.

They found that they had been misinformed and they were very much pleased at the evidence given by the local union representatives who pledged themselves strongly and sincerely that under no circumstances would they ever object to a guard of honor for a veteran's burial.

This pledge by the union was not given prominence in the papers, but the charges were printed in detail from coast to coast.



With our country disturbed with strikes and differences of a grave nature prevailing, we have a committee from Congress going down from Washington to the State of New Jersey and making an investigation of an accusation for which there was no foundation.

With war raging in Palestine, with the cost of living rising, with Russia practically defying and in some instances insulting the United States government and making a laughing stock of nearly everyone in our government, including Secretary of State Marshall, we have a committee of our famous congressmen leaving the capital to investigate a very slight misunderstanding.

But, do you think there was one word in the press of the nation or one word of apology by these congressmen who endeavored to smear this little local union of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters? No, of course not.

No matter how those congressmen blunder or what expense they cause the taxpayers, they never apologize when they are wrong. All they want is to make a pretense of carefully guarding our interests in world affairs so they can tell their constituents what great statesmen they are. Did they not investigate a Teamsters' local of 110 members?

It makes you think of what a joke, what humbug and what dishonesty there is sometimes in certain branches of our government and very often amongst those people whom the voters elect to office, believing they are electing able, sincere friends of the laboring man.

Now, the story of the pallbearers is this: The International Union was called upon some years ago by an association of undertakers to supply

pallbearers when requested by undertakers or by the families of the deceased.

The day of large funerals is past, especially during periods when every man is at his work. Most of those who go to funerals now are women. Men go during the evening before the funeral and visit the undertaking establishment where the body of the deceased lies.

Very few men except very close relatives attend funerals in the morning.

Where the drivers are organized, as they are in most large cities, they confine themselves to driving. There are usually two or three cars for the relatives and there is the regular driver of the hearse.

Those men are not expected to carry the body from the undertaker's establishment out to the hearse or from the hearse into the church, if church services are held, and again out to the hearse when the services are over. At the grave the casket has to be handled again and sometimes those caskets are very heavy.

It takes able-bodied and experienced men to handle some caskets. For this service they receive a remuneration from the undertaker which, of course, is charged to the family.

We did not solicit this work. We really do it to accommodate the undertaker and the bereaved families. We do not encourage it, and we say to our unions of funeral drivers, having nothing to do with pallbearing if you can possibly avoid it.

If we did not help in matters of this kind the undertaker would be compelled to pick up volunteer pallbearers, perhaps around a saloon or a pool parlor, who certainly would not be respectful, dignified or efficient. Such characters, when going up the steps of a



church carrying a body, might drop the casket.

The New Jersey union representatives appeared before the committee of Congress and made statements that to my mind were patriotic and helpful and prove the sincerity of our members, not only in this little town in New Jersey but throughout the nation. And it also proves the patriotism of our membership.

This is not surprising—about 99 per cent of our membership are Americans of the purest patriotism.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters had 102,600 members wearing uniforms during the last World War. Many, very many, of our members lost their lives overseas. Some of them are now crippled. No organization paid a higher price nor did more to prove their patriotism than the membership of this International Union.

But up jumps a congressman and

says—"Let's go down on a junket trip to New Jersey and investigate this all-powerful local union of funeral drivers consisting of 110 members that is trying to destroy the patriotism of the citizenship of the United States and is insulting the men who wore uniforms in the last World War by raising some question on pallbearers during the funeral of a marine in New Jersey."

Of all the buncombe artists now in America, some of the labor-hating congressmen lead the parade.

We thought we would write this story of the silly, expensive tactics of the labor haters who get themselves appointed on committees in Congress to make junket trips all over the world at great expense when our own country is confronted by serious problems. Our country has never been in such a dangerous position since the beginning of the first World War. Only men of great ability can save it.

## Omaha Teamster Honored for Saving Four Lives

One of the country's biggest Teamsters, Martin Ryan (weight, 300 pounds), has been honored for saving the lives of four people trapped in a burning automobile.

Mr. Ryan, a member of Local No. 554 of Omaha since it was organized in 1937, was driving near Cedar Rapids, Iowa, last year when a car collided head-on with another.

It overturned and burst into flame. Mr. Ryan heaved his 300 pounds nimbly to the rescue. He beat the flames back with a fire extinguisher from his truck and dragged four people from the wreck.

He received awards from the National Trucking Association, the Iowa Motor Truck Association, the Omaha Safety Council and the Union Freightways Club, composed of employees of the company for which he works.

He has driven for Union Freightways for 12 years and his services are so highly valued that the company frequently has its equipment altered to make room for Mr. Ryan behind the wheel.

He has been a truck driver for 25 years, ever since he was 19, according to Secretary-Treasurer Irving L. Schmidt of Local No. 554.

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**It is the matured conviction of honest, open-minded economists that the unrestrained greed of the owners and managers of enterprise, and of the food producers and distributors, have brought this nation to the verge of a "bust" in 1948.—St. Louis Labor Tribune.**



# Tobin Indorses No Candidate

Refusal to be Democratic Delegate is Misinterpreted

By DANIEL J. TOBIN

AS A RESULT of misstatements which may lead to misunderstandings throughout our membership, I publish the following letter given to the press on June 21, so that our membership may understand this situation. I am also publishing herein a copy of my letter to Mr. McHale.

I trust our membership will understand that men who are in the public eye, especially an organization of our kind which is aggressive and militant and so strongly American, I repeat, I trust you will understand that we cannot control the press nor the radio commentators and that we have to accept misstatements because of our position before the public.

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I am desirous of correcting misstatements appearing in the press and over the radio in relation to my letter to Mr. Frank McHale, National Democratic Committee member from the State of Indiana.

I did not say I was opposed or favored any administration or any candidate in any party. I plainly advised Mr. McHale that I would not attend the Democratic convention as a delegate-at-large from the State of Indiana. I am enclosing copy of that letter.

I have made no other statements to anyone and commentators who have said I favor Mr. Eisenhower or Dr. Dewey or that I am opposed to any Democratic candidate are doing me and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters an injustice at this time.

The action of the general executive board of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters which has recently been in session in Indianapolis was as follows: That they approve the advice of the general president requesting all the officers, national and local, to refrain from committing themselves to any party or any candidate until the nominations have taken place and the platforms have been adopted and that then we will digest both the candidates and the platforms and later on perhaps call a conference some time in September somewhere convenient to all our people for the purpose of deciding what policy we will pursue and what candidates or platforms we shall approve.

The calling of the conference referred to above is not mandatory. It is left entirely to the discretion of the general president by unanimous vote of the general executive board.

I have made no other statements to anyone on that letter and all I have done is to refuse to be a delegate to the Democratic national convention from the State of Indiana.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters shall appreciate your publishing this letter and an affidavit as to its truth, if necessary or requested by you, will be made by me.

DANIEL J. TOBIN.



Following is President Tobin's letter to Mr. McHale dated June 18:

Mr. Frank M. McHale  
Democratic National Committeeman for Indiana  
Chamber of Commerce Building  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Mr. McHale:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 16, 1948, in which you notify me of the arrangements made for the Democratic National Convention.

I desire to say that I was not a candidate for this position. I did not attend the state convention of the Democratic party and I knew nothing about my being elected as a delegate-at-large for the State of Indiana until I read same in the papers on my return to my office in this city.

I desire to say further that I cannot act or serve as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

Very sincerely yours,

DANIEL J. TOBIN,  
General President.

## Patience Pays Dividend to Pittsburgh Local

Proof that patience pays in contract negotiations was provided last month by Local No. 485 of Pittsburgh when it signed a new contract covering 807 employees of 25 western Pennsylvania bakeries at increases ranging up to 15¾ cents per hour.

Negotiations extended over four months during which the men remained at work. Now they receive the increase retroactive to March 1.

"On some occasions the situation became alarming but patience and a mutual determination to avoid serious trouble finally resulted in a very satisfactory agreement," wrote Secretary-Treasurer William H. Tappe to International headquarters.

"We are proud of the fact that during the entire period of World War II our local union abided by the no-strike

pledge of President Tobin and our International.

"We did not engage in any work stoppage during that crucial era.

"We are also proud of the fact that there has been no strike in the wholesale and retail bakery field in our area at any time during the past 10 years.

"This certainly is in keeping with the advice of our International Union and proves conclusively the value of employing sound judgment in collective bargaining.

"We have found this to be the case in our operation because over a period of years we have been able each year to show gains in our contracts to the point where today our various agreements rate with the highest in the country and in most instances are the best in effect in our jurisdiction."

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Nine union shop elections were won unanimously by Local No. 59 of New Bedford, Mass., last month. They were all in small plants where absentees offer the greatest threat to union victory. But there was no need to worry. Everybody voted and they all voted for a union shop, Secretary-Treasurer S. P. Jason reported.



# Trucks Employ More Than Rails

Payroll for Trucking Industry Totals 3,800,000

**D**IRECT employment furnished by the trucking industry totals more than 3,800,000 or 2½ times as many jobs as the railroad industry provides.

This is one of many surprising facts compiled by the American Trucking Associations, Inc., to show the public the tremendous influence the industry exerts on all phases of American economic life.

Here are some of the facts published in a booklet the American Trucking Associations are distributing throughout the country:

In the United States there are more than 6,000,000 trucks and trailers, more than half the number in the world. Lined up bumper to bumper they would stretch for 13,500 miles or from Los Angeles through Moscow and deep into Asiatic Russia.

The yearly taxes paid by these vehicles total \$762,000,000 or the equivalent of the sum spent by all states in 1946 for 43,000 miles of new roads.

Gasoline burned by American trucks reaches the staggering total of 5,800,000,000 (billions, that is) gallons a year. They also use 480,960,000 quarts of oil and 7,100,000 gallons of anti-freeze per year.

The mileage covered is 50 billion ton-miles or the equal of more than 50 trips to the sun with a 10-ton load. So far, however, no deliveries have been made there.

Each year the trucking companies buy 800,000 new trucks and 75,000

new trailers which consume raw materials from every state including 87,580,000 pounds of copper, 1,731,375 tons of steel, 92,875 tons of iron, 118,300,000 feet of lumber, 6,150,000 pounds of glycerine, 12,810,000 square feet of leather, 64,800,000 pounds of paint and thinner, 15,180,000 pounds of aluminum, 53,575 tons of lead, 23,244,150 square feet of glass, 6,720,000 pounds of tin, 108,600 long tons of rubber and 94,902 bales of cotton.

And that only tells part of the story. Many more items, too numerous to mention, are consumed in the manufacture of the trucks and trailers that carry increasing loads of all kinds of merchandise to the remote corners of the country where a locomotive whistle is never heard.

The steady and amazing growth of the trucking industry is illustrated by the size of the truck fleets over 30 years.

The figures show the total vehicles at 10-year intervals:

1916 .....	215,000 vehicles
1926 .....	2,764,222 vehicles
1936 .....	3,987,339 vehicles
1946 .....	5,725,692 vehicles

In spite of its enemies in Congress and the state legislatures, the trucking industry has developed to give the nation more efficient service year after year.

And a large part of its success rests on the broad shoulders and expert performance of the truck drivers.

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Any serious weakening of the Trade Agreements Act at this critical period in world affairs would almost certainly be regarded by other countries not only as a surrender of our leadership in the international economic field, but as a repudiation of much that has been accomplished under our leadership in that field.—Secretary of State George C. Marshall.



# Ed Murphy Named Vice President

Minutes of Meeting of General Executive Board at International Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana, June 8 to 11, 1948

THE meeting of the general executive board was called to order by General President Daniel J. Tobin at 10 a. m. on June 8, at the office of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, 222 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis.

President Tobin reported that Vice-President Dave Beck would be unable to attend the meeting until Thursday, June 10, due to a number of important matters which required his attention on the West Coast.

It was reported that Vice-President McLaughlin of San Francisco was ill and would be unable to attend the board meeting on the orders of his physician.

President Tobin reported on the Hartford strike situation involving the General Ice Cream Company, a subsidiary of the National Dairy Products Corporation and Local No. 536, Milk Drivers, Salesmen and Inside Dairy Workers.

H. H. Neel, a vice-president of National Dairy, conferred with Thomas E. Flynn at the International office concerning settlement of the strike. At this writing, June 21, nothing has changed. The strike is still on.

President Tobin stated that he deplored the fact that many local labor leaders do not comprehend the threat to the labor movement that exists at the present time. He expressed the hope that local labor leaders will become better informed on the laws of our land and their effect on the people whom these leaders have been chosen

to represent; also on laws of the International Union.

It was reported by President Tobin that a \$5,000 reward had been offered for the apprehension of the person who attempted to assassinate Walter Reuther, president of the United Automobile Workers of America. This action was approved and the reward continued.

The general executive board discussed the growing movement throughout the nation to sell trucks to the drivers. This action presents a great threat to the welfare of truck drivers as well as to the Teamsters' Union. The creation of owner-operators is detrimental to the truck driver who is induced to take over or purchase the equipment, solely for the selfish interests of the large employers.

A communication was read by Mr. Flynn from the International Transport Workers' Federation dated May 24, 1948, inviting President Tobin to attend a meeting of that federation being held in Oslo, Norway. It is impossible for the general president to attend meetings outside the United States at this time, due to numerous important matters.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters has been invited to affiliate with the International Transport Workers' Federation, which is doing outstanding work.

The federation is desirous of gaining the prestige which affiliation by the Teamsters' Union would give it. The affiliation would be on the basis of the payment of dues on the approximately



50,000 Transport Workers affiliated with our International Union engaged in waterfront hauling.

The fees to be paid by the Teamsters' Union to the Transport Workers would amount to approximately \$2,800 per year.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the International Teamsters' Union affiliate with the International Transport Workers' Federation on the basis outlined by President Tobin. A telegram was sent to the International Transport Workers' Federation advising it of the action taken by the general executive board.

JUNE 9, 1948

Local No. 808, Express Drivers of New York, and Local No. 459, Railway Express Drivers of Jersey City, made a request of the general president that he sign a certain affidavit in order to help them in a case they had in New York relative to a stoppage of work that prevailed in the express industry some time last year.

The general executive board discussed this situation, which was referred by Patrick F. Murphy, referee of the Railway Retirement Board.

The general executive board was of the opinion that it would be inadvisable for President Tobin to comply with the request of the local unions in this matter and the general president, therefore, was ordered to notify Mr. Murphy that the matter referred to in his letter was entirely for him to decide without any interference by the International president or general executive board, and to state to Mr. Murphy that under his powers it was up to him to determine the question of benefits for the men involved.

A request was made by Local No. 808 of New York for financial benefits, as they claim their local treasury was

somewhat reduced as a result of the stoppage of work within their union some time last year.

The board gave full consideration to this request and decided that in accordance with our usual procedure that the request could not be granted.

Therefore, the appeal was denied and it was suggested that the local union had the power to levy assessments on the membership and rebuild its treasury within its own large membership as has been done by many large local unions, including Local No. 25 of Boston, which had a similar experience and overcame it by levying assessments on its general membership.

A number of representatives of various Teamster local unions appeared before the board concerning the developing movement in the trucking industry forcing drivers to buy the trucks which they formerly operated for their employers.

It was pointed out that in a number of cases where the drivers were forced to purchase their trucks and routes and become individual owner-operators, their hours of employment have been greatly lengthened and their take-home pay has been reduced.

In some instances the hauling companies have disregarded existing contracts, have formed new corporations and attempted in numerous ways to take advantage of the drivers to further the selfish interest of the hauling company.

Numerous opinions were expressed as to how to meet this problem. After a lengthy discussion a request was made by the representatives of the local unions present to withdraw the matter from further consideration by the board until such time as the local unions had an opportunity to consider the subject more thoroughly, after



which, if it is desired, the International Union will again be contacted. The board is much afraid of the proposition of the bosses.

The appeal of Roland Bileau from the decision of the executive board of Local No. 64 of Providence was denied and the local union was sustained.

The appeal of Charles F. Jennings from the decision of Joint Council No. 10 of Boston was denied and the joint council was sustained.

JUNE 10, 1948

Regarding the appeal of Local No. 380, Milk Wagon Drivers of Boston, from the decision of Joint Council No. 10 in the case of Luke Kramer, the appeal of the local union was sustained.

A number of elected officials representing some of our local unions in Greater New York and vicinity who are engaged in the trucking business appeared before the executive board. The spokesman for the group was President John O'Rourke of Local No. 282.

Several others in the group, among them Tom Hickey of Local No. 807, made important statements. For the first time in a good many years all the unions engaged in the trucking business within a radius of 30 or 40 miles of New York have agreed to work together in the presentation of a uniform wage contract.

The conversation with the general executive board went on for several hours and in the judgment of the board the right procedure has been established and it is hoped by the board that the unions will be able to establish uniform conditions in that part of the trucking business and that they will work together in their joint wage contract.

At any rate, the board now fully understands the situation and it ad-

vised the unions to conform strictly to the laws of the International Union and to observe federal laws in the interstate trucking business.

The representatives of the unions expressed the hope and the belief that they will be able to reach an understanding with their employers without any serious difficulty. We hope that they have guessed right but we are always doubtful until the matter is settled.

The International Union will render whatever aid it possibly can if its laws are observed to the letter, as well as the federal and state laws.

The board moved forward several of the vice-presidents and the general president appointed Edward F. Murphy of Cleveland as ninth vice-president. The appointment was unanimously approved by the board. Brother Murphy is resigning as organizer and will be connected with our Cleveland Joint Council in accordance with his own desire.

He has served the International Union for many years and is very highly respected by the entire labor movement throughout the State of Ohio and other districts in which he represented the International.

The appeal of members of Local No. 211, Newspaper Drivers of Pittsburgh, from a prior decision ruling them to be owner-operators, was heard by the board. There appeared before the board President J. P. McHale of Local No. 211, Joseph Donley, Harold Fogle and Emil Zabka. After hearing the full case and discussing it at considerable length, the board denied the appeal and reaffirmed its former decision.

The case of Mortimer Ringler and Paul Germain against Joseph P. Cleary, appealed from the decisions of Local No. 145 of Bridgeport, Conn., and



Joint Council No. 64, was heard and considered by the board. The appeal was denied.

Pursuant to a request, President Tobin granted permission to a large number of local union representatives whose members are employed by the Railway Express Agency to appear before the board and discuss the entire situation surrounding the difference existing between themselves and the company officials.

The main question at issue is the establishment of the 40-hour week outside New York and Jersey City. The board heard the entire case and the following decision was arrived at after several hours of discussion:

It was moved and seconded and unanimously carried that a committee of four outstanding representatives of the International Union be appointed to go into the whole matter and make recommendations to the general executive board for its consideration.

The committee was appointed and is now making its investigation and at the time of going to press the finding and report of the committee had not yet been made to the general president, who in turn will report to the board for its action on the report of the committee and on the request of the Express Drivers and Helpers' Unions for strike endorsement.

A petition was read to the board from Henry Witte, who had been expelled from membership for acts unbecoming a member some time ago. He was a member of Local No. 600, Truck Drivers of St. Louis.

The local union and the joint council recommended reconsideration of the penalty imposed on Witte and asked the board to reinstate Witte to membership or at least place him on probation because they said he had promised

to observe the laws, rules and decisions of the local union and International Union in the future.

The board granted the request of Local No. 600 and Joint Council No. 13 of St. Louis and Witte was reinstated under certain probationary rules and conditions.

The case of Local No. 120 of St. Paul was next considered. There appeared before the board Joseph Okoneski and Gordon Conklin of Local No. 120. Brothers A. G. Pregler and George Lockwood represented Local No. 756.

The whole story of Local No. 120 was discussed at length by the board members and by the St. Paul representatives. It was decided that the action of the board and the executive officers be approved and that Local No. 120 cease collecting dues from all transferred members and that Local No. 120 transfer to Local No. 756 any other members not already transferred, in accordance with the decision of the board.

Local No. 120 was instructed to help Local No. 756 in every way possible and to carry out in spirit and in letter the orders of the general executive board and the general officers.

The Joint Council of St. Paul is also requested and ordered by the board to lend all its assistance towards putting into effect the decisions of the general executive board and to work in harmony and endeavor to get all the local unions in St. Paul to work in harmony and in unionism with the local unions of Minneapolis.

In the opinion of the general executive board, unity of action and cooperation is seriously needed in order to protect the membership of the two cities and advance the conditions of the general membership.



# Don't Buy the Boss' Truck

**T**HERE is a movement on foot now by many small operators and small business houses to induce their drivers to buy their trucks. They guarantee the driver so much work and they say—"We will deduct so much each month for the payment of the truck."

Our solemn and appealing advice to our membership is to keep away from such propositions. This has been tried for years and in each instance we know of, the drivers have lost their shirts, although they worked longer hours, even Sundays, trying to fix up their old trucks only to get less than they did as journeyman drivers.

The reason the employers are doing this is because they think they can operate or distribute at less cost because they know when the individual owner buys a truck that he will sneak around and work at night, after he is through on the road, or that he will do anything else in order to make both ends meet.

You might buy a truck for \$2,500, more or less, that would be three years old. The life of a truck is about five years and during the last years it is quite expensive to maintain as parts wear out and have to be replaced.

At the end of five years you have nothing left but a wreck and you endeavor to replace it with a new truck or a second-hand truck and you go into debt once more. You are trying to pay for the new truck for the next three or four years. Also, when your truck breaks down or you are unable to operate, the employer does not hesitate to hire someone else.

Take our advice and keep away from such truck deals on the promises of your employer. Better for you to go out and get a job at something else. Even if you only make \$25 a week you know what is coming to you and you are not mortgaging your labor for the next five years.

Truckmen or employers who try to sell their trucks to their drivers in 99 per cent of the cases are trying to help themselves and not the drivers. They are trying to get rid of the responsibility of maintaining trucks so that they may increase their profits. Beware of such serpentine inducements and promises.

Keep out of debt if you can, except to buy a home or something of that kind. The small individual in business is up against the shell game in the world of today.



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